

2006 Indigenous Musician of the Year

June Mills has been playing music all of her life. In 2005 June released an album through *Skinnyfish Music* which was recorded in Audrey Studio, Melbourne and includes 12 of June's beautiful songs. The album entitled, 'I'll Be The One' features:

I'LL BE THE ONE, HARD WORKING WOMAN, YOU SLIPPED AWAY, JESSIE, SWEETCHILD OF MINE, ALONE AGAIN, MOTHERLAND, WHY, WHEN I DIE, I'LL BRING YOU HOME, HEARTACHE WIND, SO HERE WE ARE.

June is the eldest of the famous Mills Sisters, from Darwin, NT. The Mills Sisters who started performing publicly in the late 70's became famous almost immediately and went on to many memorable support acts which included, Tina Turner, Charlie Pride, Harry Secombe, The Bushwackers and Bullamakanka.

The Mills Sisters won 'The Australasian Busker's Championship' in Tamworth in 1987. The Mills Sisters also won the 'Bougainvillea Songwriting Competition' in 1985/86 with both songs written by their mother Kathleen Mills. The first song entitled 'Arafura Pearl' in 1985 and the following year, a song entitled 'Bougainvillia Festival'. The Mills Family are Larrakia, Kungarakan, Gurindgi, Jawoyn. Batchelor is built on Kungarakan Land.

June has become an incredible singer songwriter. She has a flair for beautiful melodic music and an amazing voice accompanied by her beautiful guitar playing, which she attributes to her dad David who was famous for singing around Darwin, just as his children do today.

Her songs spring from a wealth of local knowledge and often a political theme. Themes which often feature throughout her repertoire, are stolen generation, environmental, social justice, anti war, family, friendship, land and culture.

Her music could be described as soft country to country rock. Playing her acoustic steel string she occasionally has accompaniment which may include drums, lead and steel guitar.

It is not unusual to stumble across June singing on the beach, in a park or in someone's back yard, as June loves nothing more than sitting around a fire with friends and having a good old fashioned sing song.